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Current Claims (Reproduced For Convenience -- No Amendments Made)

1. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:
a membrane electrode assembly;
a bipolar separator plate; and
independently-acting compliant electrical contacts
attached to said bipolar separator plate, for pressing
against but not permanently attaching to a membrane
electrode assembly of an adjacent fuel cell assembly.
2. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell stack, comprised of a first assembly according
to claim 1 and a second assembly according to claim 1,
wherein the independently-acting compliant electrical
contacts of said first assembly are in electrical contact
with but are not permanently attached to the membrane
electrode assembly of said second assembly.
3. (Previously Amended): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1 wherein said
independently-acting compliant electrical contacts
comprise springs.
4. (Previously Amended): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, wherein said
springs are inverted-V shaped.
5. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, wherein said
springs are S-shaped.
6. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, wherein said
springs are Z-shaped.
7. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, wherein said
springs are omega-shaped, wherein said omega-shaped

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springs have a height and a tapered middle section, said tapered middle section having a width, and wherein said width is at least 50% as great as said height.

8. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, wherein said independently-acting compliant electrical contacts are formed into an array having a length, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a length, and wherein said length of said array is approximately equal to said length of said membrane electrode assembly.
9. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1 wherein said independently-acting compliant electrical contacts are formed into an array having a width, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a width, and wherein said width of said array is approximately equal to said width of said membrane electrode assembly.
10. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 8 wherein said independently-acting compliant electrical contacts are formed into an array having a width, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a width, and wherein said width of said array is approximately equal to said width of said membrane electrode assembly.
11. (Canceled pursuant to restriction requirement)
12. (Previously Amended): Independently-acting compliant electrical contacts for attachment to a bipolar separator plate and for pressing against but not permanently attaching to a membrane electrode assembly in a fuel cell stack.

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13. (Original): The independently-acting compliant electrical contacts according to claim 12, wherein said independently-acting compliant electrical contacts comprise springs.
14. (Previously Amended): A method for maintaining electrical contact between a bipolar separator plate and a membrane electrode assembly in a fuel cell stack comprising attaching independently-acting compliant electrical contacts to said bipolar separator plate and positioning said independently-acting compliant electrical contacts so as to press against but not permanently attach to said membrane electrode assembly.
15. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:
a membrane electrode assembly;
a bipolar separator plate; and
flexible means attached to said bipolar separator plate and pressed against but not permanently attached to said membrane electrode assembly for making electrical contact between said membrane electrode assembly and said bipolar separator plate.
16. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:
a membrane electrode assembly;
a bipolar separator plate; and
flexible electrical contact members attached to said bipolar separator plate and pressed against but not permanently attached to said membrane electrode assembly.
17. (Original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 16, wherein said flexible electrical contact members comprise a

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plurality of springs, whereby said springs maintain independently-acting compliant electrical contact between said membrane electrode assembly and said bipolar separator plate.

18. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly, comprising:
a bipolar separator plate, said bipolar separator plate having a first side and a second side;
a membrane electrode assembly, attached to and sealed to said first side; and
independently-acting compliant electrical contacts attached to said second side, for pressing against but not permanently attaching to a membrane electrode assembly of an adjacent fuel cell assembly.
19. (Original): A fuel cell stack, comprised of a first assembly according to claim 18 and a second assembly according to claim 18, wherein the independently-acting compliant electrical contacts of said first assembly are in electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said second assembly.
20. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:
a membrane electrode assembly;
a bipolar separator plate; and
an independently-acting compliant electrical contact attached to said bipolar separator plate and pressed against but not permanently attached to said membrane electrode assembly.
21. (Previously Amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:
a membrane electrode assembly;

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a bipolar separator plate;
first means for maintaining electrical contact attached
to said bipolar separator plate and pressed against
but not permanently attached to said membrane
electrode assembly between said membrane electrode
assembly and said bipolar separator plate; and
second means for sealing said membrane electrode
assembly with said bipolar separator plate, wherein
said second means functions independently from said
first means.

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Conclusion

The Fuglevand patent simply does not anticipate or render the present invention obvious, and therefore all the claims of the present application should be allowed.

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FUEL CELL GLOSSARY

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EXHIBIT A

Fuel Cell Glossary

BASE.

The lowest frame or structure of the appliance, exclusive of legs that provides the primary means of support.

BASE LOAD.

The constant electrical demand by a system to a power supply.

BEARING, OILLESS.

A sleeve bearing of porous material that depends solely on the porosity of the metal to store oil.

BIPOLAR PLATES.

Conductive plate in a fuel cell stack that acts as an anode for one cell and a cathode for the adjacent cell. The plate may be made of metal or a conductive polymer (which may be a carbon-filled composite). The plate usually incorporates flow channels for the fluid feeds and may also contain conduits for heat transfer.

BLACK START.

A power source's ability to power up from a cold shut down condition to fully operational status through a dedicated auxiliary power source that is totally independent of external systems.

BLOWDOWN.

The difference between the opening and closing pressures of a relief/safety valve.

BLOWER.

A fan used to force air and/or gas under pressure.

BOOST REGULATOR.

Voltage conversion device used to raise the voltage in a DC system.

BRITISH THERMAL UNIT.

The mean British Thermal Unit (BTU) is 1/180 of the heat required to raise the temperature of one pound (1lb) of water from 32°F to 212°F at a constant atmospheric pressure. It is about equal to the quantity of heat required to raise one pound (1 lb.) of water 1°F.

BURNER.

A device for the final conveyance of the gas, or a mixture of gas and air, to the combustion zone (also see Main Burner).

Forced-Draft. A burner for which air for combustion is supplied by a fan ahead of the gas utilization equipment.

Induced-Draft. A burner which depends on the draft induced by a fan beyond the gas utilization equipment for its proper operation.